

### **What is the Stow Cultural Council (SCC) and its purpose?**

We are a group of interested residents whose purpose is to support community-based projects and activities in the arts, humanities and sciences to benefit the residents of Stow. We are appointed by the Selectmen to dispense public funding allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. We review and approve local applications.

Examples of recent grant recipients include:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT
Lake Boon Association	Lake Boon Carnival Outdoor Concert
Stow Historical Commission	West School Open Houses
Hudson Area Arts Alliance	"Celtic Celebration" Community Art Series
Hale School	Junior High School Play
Sounds of Stow	Classical Music Concerts
Three Apples Story Telling Festival	Story Telling Festival & Workshops
Friends of the Arts	Children's Community Art Festival
Small Farm	Regional map of local farms
Center School	Decordova Museum Field Trip
Randall Library	Summer Reading Program
Stow Council on Aging	Symphony Hall Trip & Poetry Class
Women of Note	Barbershop Chorus

### **Who qualifies to apply for funding?**

Massachusetts-based individuals, artists, non-profit community groups, cultural institutions, and schools with a particular activity related to the arts, humanities or interpretive sciences, and which has public benefit, may apply.

### **How does someone apply for funding?**

Applications are available at the Randall Library, from any member of the Stow Cultural Council, or from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) website: <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.html>. Mail completed applications to:

Stow Cultural Council, Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775.

### **How much are grants?**

The SCC had \$8,000 to award for 2004-05. Average grants tend to be modest (\$250-\$750), but can be as large as \$1,000.

### **When are the applications due?**

The deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Applicants will be notified by January 2006.

### **Who are the 2004 - 2005 Council members?**

Members: Lynne Juster(897-1639), Betsy Stepp(897-4944), Bob Glorioso(897-3891), Nancy Dickson (897-3658), Catherine Hammill (978) 568-9788, Liz Muehl (897-8983), Daniel Nicholson (562-0237), Dorothy Sonnichsen(897-3344), Donnalisa Johnson(897-3651)

### **What are the different types of applications SCC reviews?**

We review two types: standard applications, which can cover a broad range of cultural activities, and PASS applications, which are used to request funds (up to \$12 admission fee) for K-12 students' field trips to relevant cultural performances and institutions.

### **What are the criteria upon which grant decisions are made?**

- Funds must be for arts, humanities or sciences.
- Project must have community benefit.
- Continuing projects preferably have other support (not depend solely on SCC funding).
- Funds cannot be used in place of money that the town, school, or library would normally cover.
- Equal cultural access for all and variation in audiences served.

### **Priority for 2004 -2005 was given to:**

- Programs that fall broadly within the following **Community Series** categories:
  - Enjoying Stow's Open Spaces:** Activities focusing on our connection to the outdoors utilizing town landscapes and resources, such as local farms and conservation areas.
  - Enriching Connections:** Activities jointly sponsored by local organizations that would serve the town of Stow. All local organizations are invited to collaborate and apply.
  - Exploring the Arts & Sciences:** Activities providing a community forum for experiencing the arts and sciences.
- Projects/activities planned or sponsored by Stow-based residents and institutions.
- New applications and /or new projects.

### **Additional Requirements**

- If you are an out-of-area applicant planning an event with a Stow institution, your application must include evidence of prearranged dates, timing and location.
- Resume of applicant's qualifications is required. Consideration will be given to applicant's accomplishments and quality of work.
- Slides, photographs, or tapes will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- When the budget is large, evidence of other committed funds must be presented.

### **Where does the money come from?**

The \$8,000 in funding for 2004-05 came from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Town of Stow, a grant from the Fieldstone Foundation, and from private donations. If you are interested in donating, please contact one of the Council members.

More questions? Please contact the Selectmen's Office at 897-4515